

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A sound processor for use with an implantable cochlear stimulator ~~adapted~~ configured to receive stimulation signals and power from a source external to the implantable cochlear stimulator, the sound processor comprising:

a microphone ~~adapted~~ configured to receive sound signals and convert them to electrical signals;

a sound processing circuit ~~adapted~~ configured to receive the electrical signals from the microphone and convert them to a stimulation signal, and further ~~adapted~~ configured to generate a power signal;

a headpiece connected to the sound processing circuit, the headpiece ~~adapted~~ configured to transfer the stimulation signal and the power signal from the sound processing circuit to the implantable cochlear stimulator; and

a power source permanently integrated into the sound processor and ~~adapted~~ configured to provide operating power for the sound processing circuit and implantable cochlear stimulator.

2. (Original) The sound processor of Claim 1 wherein the headpiece comprises a microphone.

3. (Previously Presented) The sound processor of Claim 1 wherein the power source comprises a replenishable power source.

4. (Original) The sound processor of Claim 3 wherein the replenishable power source comprises a rechargeable battery.

5. (Original) The sound processor of Claim 4 wherein the rechargeable battery comprises a Lithium-Ion battery.

6. (Currently Amended) The sound processor of claim 1, further comprising:
a coil integrally included within the sound processor and coupled to the sound processing circuit and the replenishable power source, the coil ~~adapted~~ configured to selectively receive power from an external charging source and recharge the replenishable power source when the sound processor is in proximity to the external charging source.

7. (Currently Amended) The sound processor of Claim 6 wherein the coil and sound processing circuit are further ~~adapted~~ configured to receive external control signals from an external source that controls the operation of the sound processing circuits.

8. (Currently Amended) The sound processor of Claim 7 further including at least one sensor integrally included therein ~~adapted~~ configured to sense proximity to the external charging source.

9. (Currently Amended) A cochlear implant system comprising:
an implantable portion;
an external portion comprising
a headpiece, and
a sound processor,
wherein the sound processor comprises sound processing circuits,
a coil and a battery permanently integrated into a closed case; and
a remote control unit ~~adapted~~ configured to electromagnetically communicate through the coil to allow operating parameters of the sound processing circuits to be selectively adjusted.

10. (Currently Amended) The cochlear implant system of Claim 9 wherein the battery is rechargeable, the cochlear implant system further comprising a base station having recharging circuitry housed therein ~~adapted~~ configured to recharge the rechargeable battery of the sound processor through the coil when the sound processor is placed in close proximity to the base station.

11. (Currently Amended) The cochlear implant system of Claim 10, the external portion further comprising:

a microphone ~~adapted~~ configured to receive sound signals and convert them to electrical signals;

wherein the sound processing circuits are ~~adapted~~ configured to receive the electrical signals from the microphone and convert them to stimulation signals, and further ~~adapted~~ configured to generate power signals; and

wherein the headpiece is connected to the sound processing circuits, the headpiece ~~adapted~~ configured to transfer the stimulation signals and the power signals from the sound processing circuits to the implantable portion.

12. (Original) The cochlear implant system of Claim 10 wherein the headpiece comprises a microphone.

13. (Currently Amended) The cochlear implant system of Claim 10 wherein the rechargeable battery of the sound processor is ~~adapted~~ configured to provide operating power for the sound processing circuits and the implantable portion.

14. (Original) The cochlear implant system of Claim 13 wherein the rechargeable battery comprises a Lithium-Ion battery.

15. (Currently Amended) The cochlear implant system of Claim 10 wherein the headpiece comprises a coil and the base station further comprises:

a control circuit coil; and

control circuits, wherein the control circuits are ~~adapted~~ configured to control and monitor the recharging process based on feedback signals received through the control circuit coil from the sound processor through the coil of the headpiece.

16. (Original) The cochlear implant system of Claim 15 comprising at least one visual display wherein the control circuits are connected to the at least one visual display.

17. (Currently Amended) A cochlear implant system comprising:
an implantable portion;
an external portion comprising
a headpiece, and
a sound processor,
wherein the sound processor includes sound processing circuits, an antenna coil, a rechargeable battery integrally housed within a closed case, and electrical contacts embedded within or carried on an exterior surface of the closed case that are in electrical contact with the rechargeable battery;
a remote control unit ~~adapted~~ configured to electromagnetically communicate through the antenna coil to allow operating parameters of the sound processing circuits to be selectively adjusted; and
a base station comprising a charging circuit and a primary power source, and further having terminals in electrical contact with the charging circuit, and means for holding the sound processor in such a way that the electrical contacts of the sound processor contact the terminals of the base station so that the charging circuit is connected electrically with the rechargeable battery, and so that the rechargeable battery of the sound processor may be recharged from the primary power source of the base station, when the sound processor is held within the base station.

18. (Currently Amended) The cochlear implant system of Claim 17, the external portion further comprising:

a microphone ~~adapted~~ configured to receive sound signals and convert them to electrical signals;

wherein the sound processing circuits are ~~adapted~~ configured to receive the electrical signals from the microphone and convert them to stimulation signals, and further ~~adapted~~ configured to generate power signals; and

wherein the headpiece is connected to the sound processing circuits, the headpiece ~~adapted~~ configured to transfer the stimulation signals and the power signals from the sound processing circuits to the implantable portion.

19. (Original) The cochlear implant system of Claim 17 wherein the headpiece comprises a microphone.

20. (Currently Amended) The cochlear implant system of Claim 17 wherein the rechargeable battery comprises a Lithium-Ion battery, which battery is ~~adapted~~ configured to provide operating power for the sound processing circuits and the implantable portion.

21. (Previously Presented) The sound processor of Claim 1, further comprising:

a sound processor case that does not include a power source removal door;

wherein the sound processing circuit and power source are located within the sound processor case.

22. (Previously Presented) The cochlear implant system of Claim 9 wherein the closed case does not include a battery removal door.

23. (Previously Presented) The cochlear implant system of Claim 9 wherein the coil comprises a first coil configured to charge the battery and the external portion includes a second coil configured to transmit a power signal to the implantable portion.

24. (Previously Presented) The cochlear implant system of Claim 17 wherein the closed case does not include a battery removal door.

25. (Currently Amended) An external sound processor for use with an implantable cochlear stimulator, the external sound processor comprising:

a microphone ~~adapted~~ configured to receive sound signals and convert them to electrical signals;

a sound processing circuit ~~adapted~~ configured to receive the electrical signals from the microphone and convert them to a stimulation signal that may be received by the implantable cochlear stimulator;

a rechargeable power source permanently connected to the sound processing circuit;

means for mounting the microphone, sound processing circuit and rechargeable power source behind a human ear; and

means, carried by the means for mounting, for transferring power from an external power source to the rechargeable power source.